



 **BELLSOUTH**

*presents the*

***South Carolina  
2002***

***African American  
History Calendar***

visit our website at: [scafricanamericanhistory.com](http://scafricanamericanhistory.com)

# *Dear Students, Educators and Friends:*

BellSouth is pleased to present the thirteenth edition of the South Carolina African-American History Calendar.

Thirteen years ago, we began producing these special calendars to feature one of the many different cultures that has influenced the growth and development of the Palmetto State. BellSouth wanted to assist the South Carolina Department of Education in meeting the Educational Improvement Act mandate, which calls for the inclusion of African-American history in the social studies curriculum. The response from students, educators and the general public has indicated that this calendar has indeed filled a gap in the history books, and that it has helped to build a better understanding of African-American culture. A website featuring all honorees is available via the internet, at [www.scafricanamericanhistory.com](http://www.scafricanamericanhistory.com).

The individuals highlighted in this year's calendar have excelled in their respective fields and are role models for all of our children. They have succeeded in the areas of broadcasting, business, civil rights, community service, dentistry, education, fashion design, journalism, law, meteorology, military service, ministry, music and sports.

WIS-TV highlights the lives of the honorees all year long, via vignettes, designed to heighten awareness of the calendar and increase the focus on role models.

Your opinion about this educational program is valuable to BellSouth, The Department of Education, SC Educational Television and WIS-Television. If you have any comments or questions about the calendar, please send them to: The BellSouth African-American History Calendar, P. O. Box 752, Columbia, South Carolina 29202, or visit our web site at [www.scafricanamericanhistory.com](http://www.scafricanamericanhistory.com).

The 2002 African-American History Calendar is a testimonial to the superb strength, hard work and dedication of the people featured. We hope that their stories will inspire you and the children of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H. M. Lightsey, III", written in a cursive style.

Harry M. Lightsey, III  
President  
BellSouth-South Carolina

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Copies of the calendar may be printed from the website at [www.scafricanamericanhistory.com](http://www.scafricanamericanhistory.com).

# Kitty Black-Perkins



Kitty Black-Perkins is an accomplished Chief Designer of Fashions and Doll Concepts for Mattel's highly successful Barbie line. Over the years, Black-Perkins's hard work and fashion genius have contributed to Barbie's 300 million plus fashions. Barbie is marking her forty-third anniversary in 2002. For 26 of those years, Black-Perkins has wowed the world adorning its most popular doll.

A native of Spartanburg, South Carolina, Black-Perkins is one of seven children. She was encouraged to dream big by two loving parents and her two art teachers at Carver High School. Her dream of becoming a commercial artist took flight when her aunt in California invited her to visit for the summer after high school graduation. Black-Perkins embraced Los Angeles. She earned her degree in fashion design from Los Angeles Trade Technical College in 1971, and after that, she was on her way. Her career experience as a fashion designer began with several fashion houses in Los Angeles among them *Miss Melinda of California*, *Debbie Ross*, *A & O Couture*, and many others.

In 1976, Black-Perkins was enticed by a classified ad for a fashion designer for the largest toy company in the world - Mattel. Through Mattel, Black-Perkins was given the opportunity to travel all over the world. One of her many lines is the African-American fashion dolls: Shanni and Friends, introduced in 1991; Fashion Savvy, introduced in 1997, and the Brandy line currently on the market. A special doll, designed by Black-Perkins, was donated to the South Carolina State Museum in May of 2001.

Black-Perkins's creative impact as a top designer has been recognized and pursued by some of the industry's top magazines and newspapers. *Ebony*, *Essence*, *LA Magazine*, *Woman's Day*, and *Sister to Sister* are just a sample of those who have followed her career in print. In addition, her reputation of 26 years and design savvy have earned her many honors throughout the industry. Some of these include the distinction of receiving the *Chairman's Award*, the highest recognition a Mattel employee can receive. She was honored with this in 1985 and 1987. The toy industry also honored her with their highest achievement award, *The Doty Award*. She was chosen *Woman of the Year* honoree at the annual "Woman Keeping the Dream Alive" banquet sponsored by the National Council of Negro Women in 1994. More recently, she was inducted into the Black Hall of Fame on July 23, 2001.

Black-Perkins has always made it a priority to invest time and energy back to the community. She has volunteered to be a guest speaker at several Career Day events and has contributed spectacular one-of-a-kind creations to various charitable fund raisers, raising well over \$100,000. Black-Perkins says the best part of her job is the satisfaction of seeing her designs completed and knowing that her dolls are making a lot of little girls happy all over the world.

Black-Perkins resides in southern California with her two children. They are her most prized accomplishment and have been a great source of strength and support for her in following her dreams.

# January 2002



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<i>New Year's Day</i> <b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
		Emancipation Proclamation issued in 1863.	William Lloyd Garrison began publishing "The Liberator," an abolitionist newspaper, in 1831.	Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. was elected chairperson of the House Committee on Education and Labor in 1961.	Grace Bumbry, opera singer, was born, in 1937.	George Washington Carver died in 1943.
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
The World Anti-Slavery Convention opened in London, 1831. John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie, famed musician, died, 1993.	Marian Anderson made her debut in the Metropolitan Opera House in 1955.	Fannie M. Jackson, educator and first African-American woman college graduate in the US, was born, 1836. Butterfly McQueen, actress, born in 1911.	Fisk University established in 1866.	Southern Christian Leadership Conference founded in 1957.	Charles W. Anderson becomes first African-American member of the Kentucky Legislature, 1936.	The Congressional Black Caucus organized in 1971.
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
Don Barksdale became first African-American person to play in an NBA All-Star Game in 1953.	John Oliver Killens, novelist, was born, 1916.	Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in 1929.	Jefferson Franklin Long took oath of office as first African-American Congressman from Georgia, 1871.	Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) born in 1942.	Robert C. Weaver became first African-American presidential cabinet member in 1966.	Freed Blacks organized Savanna GA's first Baptist church, 1788.
<b>20</b>	<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Observed)</i> <b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
Barbara Jordan, congresswoman, was born in 1936.	William Brown-Chappell, pioneer aviator, born, 1906.	Nat Turner, leader of the Virginia slave revolt, born, 1800.	Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, pioneer in surgery, founded Provident Hospital in Chicago, IL, in 1889.	Coach Clarence "Big House" Gaines won record 800th college basketball game in 1990.	Sojourner Truth addressed the first Black Women's Rights Convention, 1851.	Bessie Coleman, first African-American woman aviator, born, 1893. Angela Davis, activist, born, 1944.
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		
Leontyne Price, world renowned opera singer, made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera House, 1961.	Ronald McNair, astronaut, died in Challenger explosion in 1986.	Oprah Winfrey, entertainer, born in 1954.	William Wells Brown, novelist and dramatist, published first Black drama, "Leap to Freedom," 1858.	Jackie Robinson, first African-American baseball player in the major leagues was born in 1919.		

# Reverend William M. Bowman, Sr.



The Reverend William M. Bowman, Sr., was active in the community, ministerial organizations, and in the Civil Rights movement. He was a founding member of WOIC radio and the Columbia NAACP branch and was a Richland District 1 board member for 16 years. In addition, Rev. Bowman was active in the county Democratic Party and a variety of community organizations. As a school board member and chairman emeritus, Rev. Bowman not only pushed for education for all students, but also cared deeply about the cafeteria workers, custodians, and other low-paid district employees. He was known as a champion of the underdog.

William M. Bowman, Sr., was born in St. George, SC, in February, 1914. He was raised on land settled by his grandfather, an American Indian who fought with the Union forces during the Civil War. At age 14, Bowman severely injured his leg and hip in a sawmill accident, along with a white co-worker. The co-worker was sent to the hospital. Bowman's leg fracture was improperly set and Bowman was sent home. The accident left him crippled for life. His doctor told him he would eventually lose his leg, but Bowman proved him wrong.

Bowman was ordained into the ministry in 1938 after graduating as valedictorian from Morris College in Sumter, SC. He served as pastor in churches in three counties – Orangeburg, Calhoun, and Richland. In 1949, he came to Columbia's Second Nazareth Baptist Church with his wife, Annie Mae Jones Bowman. Rev. Bowman retired from the active pastorate at Second Nazareth in 1996 and remained as pastor emeritus until his death.

As a founding member of WOIC radio, Bowman thought it was important to help spread God's word, as well as make WOIC a respected radio voice in the black community and the city of Columbia. He deejayed the early morning and afternoon gospel programs at the station for over two decades.

He served several years as the state field director for the NAACP. During the 1960s, he organized sit-ins at segregated lunch counters in downtown Columbia and arranged workshops to teach African-Americans how to vote. Rev. Bowman showed considerable courage at a time when some blacks were killed for asserting their civil rights. A former

resident of the Elmwood / Read Street neighborhood, this minister was instrumental in the revitalization of the Read Street area. In a lasting tribute, the city of Columbia, in 1995, named a new street in the Read Street community for Bowman and another community leader, Myrtle Gordon.

Rev. Bowman passed away on November 21, 2000, at age 86, leaving behind a legacy of respect for human rights and faith in God. In 1985 he was preceded in death by his wife. The couple had four children.

# February 2002

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THE SPIRIT OF CAROLINA

  
**BlueCross BlueShield**  
of South Carolina



**SUNDAY**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

**3**

Geraldine McCullough won the Widener Gold Medal for Sculpture in 1965.

**10**

Roberta Flack, singer, was born in 1940.

**17**

Michael Jordan, basketball player, born in 1963.

**24**

In 1864 Rebecca Lee became the first African-American woman to receive an M.D. degree.

**4**

Rosa Parks was born in 1913.

**11**

Clifford Alexander Jr. became the first African-American Secretary of the Army in 1977.

*President's Day*  
**18**

Toni Morrison (born Chloe Anthony Wofford) was born in 1931.

**25**

Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) won World Heavyweight crown in 1964.

**5**

Henry "Hank" Aaron, the home run king of major league baseball was born in 1934.

**12**

Abraham Lincoln was born in 1809. Congress enacted the first fugitive slave law in 1793.

**19**

William "Smoky" Robinson born in 1940.

**26**

Singer "Fats" Domino born in 1928.

**6**

Jonathan Jasper Wright elected to South Carolina Supreme Court in 1870.

*Ash Wednesday*  
**13**

Joseph L. Searles became the first African-American member of the New York Stock Exchange, 1970.

**20**

Frederick Douglass died in 1895.

**27**

Marian Anderson, opera singer, was born in 1902.

**7**

Eubie Blake, pianist, was born in 1883.

*Valentine's Day*  
**14**

Frederick Douglass was born in 1817.

**21**

Malcolm X was assassinated in 1965.

**28**

Richard Wright's "Native Son" published in 1940.

**1**

Langston Hughes was born in 1902.

**8**

Oprah Winfrey became the first African American woman to host a nationally syndicated talk show in 1986.

**15**

Henry Lewis was named director of the New Jersey Symphony in 1968. Nat King Cole died in 1965.

**22**

George Washington born in 1732. Julius Winfield "Dr. J" Erving born in 1950.

**29**

**2**

Ernest E. Just, biologist, received the Spingarn Medal for pioneering research on fertilization and cell division, 1914.

**9**

In 1995 Bernard Harris became the first African-American astronaut to take a spacewalk.

**16**

Joe Frazier became World Heavyweight Boxing Champion by a knockout in 1970.

**23**

W.E.B. DuBois born in 1868.

# Dr. Noble P. Cooper



Dr. Noble P. Cooper was born in Columbia, SC, on July 14, 1929, the youngest of three sons, to Dr. Henry H. and Ada Sawyer Cooper. His two brothers are Dr. H. R. Cooper, Jr. of New York City and Dr. Edward S. Cooper of Philadelphia, PA. He grew up with parents who enforced strict discipline coupled with an abundance of love and guidance.

Dr. Cooper was educated in the public schools of Columbia and continued his education at Johnson C. Smith University, graduating cum laude in 1950. Out of 2,500 applicants, Howard University selected Dr. Cooper as one of 52 students for the class of 1954. During his senior year he was chosen by the U. S. Air Force to participate in its special career program. Later, he served as chief of one of the dental clinics in Nagoya, Japan, and attained the rank of captain.

Dr. Cooper returned to Columbia and shortly thereafter he married Carole Jenkins. Segregation was the order of the day in 1956. It was the driving force to set Dr. Cooper on the road to his civic responsibilities. He immediately joined with Rev. I. DeQuincy Newman to derail segregation in South Carolina. His main duties were to raise money (chairman of the Honor Guard Dinner for ten years) and to liaison with student sit-ins. He also served as a conduit for those who wanted to help but could not identify themselves publicly.

Although he still enjoys a very viable practice of forty-five years, Dr. Cooper's extra time is evenly divided between professional and civic organizations. He belongs to more than ten professional societies and associations, holding offices in many of them. He served as treasurer of the Congaree Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association for twenty years. The Palmetto Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association afforded him the opportunity to serve as its president. He chaired the dental section for fifteen years. Under the sponsorship of the PMDPA, he and Dr. Frederick Jenkins were the first of their race accepted for membership in the S. C. Dental Association. His office serves as headquarters to prepare many aspiring dentists for the examining board.

He is a member of Wesley United Methodist Church and has had membership on more than twenty boards, often at the onset the only African-American present. Some of his cherished honors include *Omega Man of the Year*, *NAACP Distinguished Service*, first S. C.

African-American inducted in the American College of Dentists, *Howard University Distinguished Alumnus Award*, *George P. Hoffman Distinguished Dentist Award* (highest honor given by the S. C. Dental Association), S. C. Black Hall of Fame, *Johnson C. Smith University Outstanding Achievement Award* and Chairman of the Columbia Museum of Art Commission.

The Coopers have three sons: two are dentists, Dr. Noble P., Jr., and Dr. Ford S. Martin. The third son chose fashion design and is now vice president of Burberry's of London.

# March 2002



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

3

Carole Gist was crowned first black Miss USA in 1990.

10

Harriet Tubman died in 1913.

St. Patrick's Day

17

Jackie Robinson made his professional debut as a member of the Montreal Royals in 1946.

Palm Sunday

24

AME Zion Church organized in S. C. in 1867.

Easter

31

Jack Johnson, first Black heavyweight champion, born, 1878.

4

Garrett A. Morgan, scientist and inventor, was born in 1877.

11

Lorraine Hansberry play, "Raisin in the Sun," opened on Broadway in 1959.

18

Charlie Pride, country singer, born in 1938.

25

Poll Tax ruled unconstitutional in 1966.

5

Blanche Kelso Bruce of Mississippi elected to full term in U.S. Senate in 1875.

12

Andrew Young born in 1932.

19

Nat King Cole was born in 1919.

26

William H. Hastie confirmed as Federal District Judge of the Virgin Islands in 1937.

6

Dred Scott decision handed down by Supreme Court in 1857.

13

Fannie Lou Hamer, activist, dies, 1977.

20

First Day of Spring

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Harriet Beecher Stowe was published in 1852.

27

Passover begins at sundown

Arthur Mitchell, dancer and choreographer, born, 1934.

7

First cadets graduated from flying school at Tuskegee in 1942.

14

Quincy Jones, composer and musician, born, 1933.

21

Selma march began in 1965.

28

Slavery abolished in New York in 1799.

1

Writer Ralph Ellison was born in 1914.

8

Senate refuses to seat P.B.S. Pinchback of Louisiana in 1876.

15

Los Angeles Sentinel founded by Leon H. Washington in 1933.

22

Marcus Garvey, Black nationalist, arrived in America from Jamaica, 1916.

29

Good Friday

Pearl Bailey was born in 1918.

2

Dr. Jerome H. Holland elected to the board of directors of the New York Stock Exchange in 1972.

9

Clifton Wharton is sworn in as ambassador to Norway in 1961.

16

"Freedom's Journal" founded in 1827.

23

NBA star, Moses "The Mailman" Malone was born in 1954.

30

15th Amendment was enacted in 1870.

# Althea Gibson



Althea Gibson is a champion among athletes. As a pioneer in both amateur tennis and professional golf, she overcame unbelievable odds from the violent streets of Harlem to achieve international acclaim in the face of racial prejudice. Her strength of character and remarkable composure were pivotal to winning Wimbledon and U. S. championships in 1957. She became the first black player to win the Wimbledon singles title and the first to win the U. S. national title. After repeating as Wimbledon and U. S. Nation champion in 1958, she was ranked No. 1 in the U. S. and the world. Gibson was never completely at ease in amateur tennis for she realized that, despite her success, she was still unwelcome at some clubs where important tournaments were played. Later, she signed a \$100,000 contract to play tennis exhibitions at half-time of Harlem Globetrotter games.

Gibson was born on a cotton farm in Silver, South Carolina (near Sumter), in 1927. Three years later, her parents, who were sharecroppers, moved to Harlem. Something of a tomboy as a youngster, she played basketball, stickball, and paddle tennis. She won her age group New York paddle tennis championship in 1939 and then began taking lessons at the Cosmopolitan Tennis Club. In 1942, she won her first tournament, sponsored by the all-black American Tennis Association (ATA). Gibson began playing in the all-black American Tennis Association tournaments in 1945 and won the New York state championships six times from 1944-50.

Gibson moved to Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1946 to advance her tennis game with a well-to-do black doctor, Hubert A. Eaton of Wilmington. Barred from public courts because she was black, she practiced on Dr. Eaton's backyard court. At the age of 15 she was New York State black girls' singles tennis champion; this was the first of the nearly 100 professional titles, including five Grand Slam crowns she would hold during a career that spanned almost 20 years.

Her entry in the U. S. Championships of 1950 at Forest Hills was historic, the first appearance of an American black in that national indoor tournament event. She finished second. This position should have won her an invitation to the U. S. National at Forest Hills; however, tennis was largely a segregated sport in the U. S. No invitation came until after a letter from a former champion, Alice Marble, appeared in the July issue of American Lawn Tennis magazine. Marble wrote that she was embarrassed by "the

bigotry" exhibited by her fellow all-white members of the USLTA. One week later, Gibson received an invitation to the following month's U. S. Open. A mark of general acceptance, however, was her 1957 selection to represent the U. S. on the Wrightman Cup team against Britain.

In addition to accolades received from the press, fans, and fellow players for her accomplishments, Gibson has notched up several firsts outside of sports. For example, she was appointed sports commissioner for New York state in 1975 by the governor.

# April 2002



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<i>Easter Monday</i> <b>1</b> Hampton Institute opened in 1868.	<b>2</b> John Thompson became the first African-American coach to win NCAA basketball tournament, 1984.	<b>3</b> Carter G Woodson, the father of African-American history, died in 1950.	<b>4</b> Maya Angelou, author, born in 1928.	<b>5</b> Colin Powell was born in 1937.	<b>6</b> Robert E. Perry and Matthew Henson reached the North Pole in 1909.
<i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> <b>7</b> Billie Holiday, blues singer, was born in 1917.	<b>8</b> Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run in 1974.	<b>9</b> Civil Rights Bill granting citizenship passed in 1866.	<b>10</b> Richard Allen was made Bishop of the AME Church in 1916.	<b>11</b> Spelman College was founded in 1881.	<b>12</b> Free African Society organized in 1787.	<b>13</b> Thomas Jefferson's birthday.
<b>14</b> The first abolition society in the U.S. was founded in Pennsylvania, 1775.	<b>15</b> Jackie Robinson made Major League debut in 1947.	<b>16</b> Founding of Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in 1960.	<b>17</b> Rev. Ralph David Abernathy died in 1990.	<b>18</b> Alex Haley won the Pulitzer Prize for "Roots," 1977.	<b>19</b> Cheyney State College, one of the oldest Black colleges in the US, founded in 1837.	<b>20</b> Harriet Tubman started working on the Underground Railroad, 1853.
<b>21</b> Pvt. Milton L. Olive, III, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously, 1966.	<b>22</b> Charles Mingus, bassist, composer, pianist and bandleader, was born in 1922.	<b>23</b> Granville T. Woods, inventor of over 40 products, was born in 1856.	<i>Secretaries Day</i> <b>24</b> The United Negro College Fund was established in 1944.	<b>25</b> Ella Fitzgerald, singer, was born in 1917.	<b>26</b> William "Count" Basie, jazz pianist and musician, died, 1984.	<b>27</b> Coretta Scott King, activist (and wife of Martin Luther King) was born, 1927.
<b>28</b> Samuel L. Gravelly became first African-American admiral in the US Navy, 1962.	<b>29</b> "Duke" Ellington, musician and composer, born, 1899.	<b>30</b> Wallace Saunders wrote the song "Casey Jones" in 1900.				

# Maranda Phillips Holmes



Born in Sumter, SC, to the late Rev. James and Inez Thompson Phillips, Maranda Phillips Holmes has resided in Charleston since an early age. A graduate of Burke High School with further study in Religion at the College of Charleston, Mrs. Holmes has been and continues to be a steadfast advocate for the poor. A living legend and role model for aspiring humanitarians, she is known as Charleston's "Mother Teresa."

A former cigar factory worker and domestic, Mrs. Holmes retired as a playground supervisor and was the first supervisor of an integrated park in Charleston. She was married to the late James Holmes. The couple has five children, all of whom are professionals with degrees.

It was as chairperson for the Rhett Elementary School Welfare Committee that Mrs. Holmes began to focus on the disadvantaged community. Once becoming supervisor of a large playground, she seized the opportunity to reach a larger base of the community. The Holmes' reputation for being in touch with grassroots community issues won her seats on many prominent professional boards including the Charleston County Legal Assistance Board and the Governor's Low-Income Home Energy Advisory Board. She has served from their inception the City of Charleston's Commission for Women and the Charleston County Human Services Commission.

Mrs. Holmes uses her stature for many positive purposes. Volunteering at the Hollings Oncology Center, she provides a powerful testimony, twice a cancer survivor herself. Sensitive to geriatric concerns, it was partly through her efforts that the Charleston Police Department began the Elder Support Line, a program that provides immediate assistance to the elderly.

One of the phenomenal aspects of Mrs. Holmes' achievements is the fact that she does not drive; she walks or uses public transportation. "Walking the block" affords her the opportunity to "hear the cries" of the community. She is seen throughout the peninsula helping the homeless, assisting abused women, distributing groceries, and talking to young men on street corners. Going door to door, Mrs. Holmes publicized the Neighborhood Housing Service's (NHS) program, which repairs homes for low-income persons. It was partly through her efforts that many homes of Charleston's Westside were repaired.

Among her 155 awards are the American Institute for Public Service's *National Jefferson Award* for outstanding community service and an accompanying television documentary, the *Order of the Palmetto*, SC's highest civilian award, the SC Commission

for Women's *Women of Achievement Award*, and the SC Gerontological Society's *Wil Lou Grey Award*.

True to her spiritual roots, Mrs. Holmes is a member of Shiloh A.M.E. Church and is known as the "Dean of Ushering." She shares co-ownership for the idea of the South Carolina A.M.E. "Usher's Strut" and is the first female Marshal of the SC Conference. Mrs. Holmes is the first woman vice-president of the Interdenominational Ushers' Council (forty-five churches), the second woman president, and is currently Chairperson of the Board. She is a founding member of the State Usher's Convention.

# May 2002



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

5

Gwendolyn Brooks became the first Black person awarded a Pulitzer Prize, for "Annie Allen," in 1950.

Mother's Day

12

Robert Smalls seized Confederate warship in 1862.

19

Malcolm X was born in 1925.

26

Althea Gibson won the French Open, becoming the first Black tennis player to win a major tennis title, in 1956.

6

Civil Rights Act signed by President Eisenhower in 1960.

13

Joe Louis was born in 1914.

20

Robert N. C. Nix was elected to United States Congress in 1958.

Memorial Day

27

Louis Gossett, Jr., actor, born in 1936.

7

J.R. Winters patented the fire escape, 1878.

14

In 1804 a slave known only as York accompanied Lewis and Clark on their expedition.

21

Lowell W. Perry was confirmed as chairman of the Equal Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in 1975.

28

Eliza Ann Gardner, underground railroad conductor, born, 1831.

1

Howard University in Washington, D.C., opened in 1867.

8

Rev. Henry McNeal Turner died in 1915.

15

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, founded at Indiana University, was incorporated in 1911.

22

Claude McKay, poet, died in 1948.

29

Thomas Bradley was elected mayor of Los Angeles in 1973.

2

Elijah McCoy, inventor and holder of over fifty patents was born in 1844.

9

Slaves in Georgia, Florida and South Carolina were freed, 1862.

Shavuoth Begins at Sunset

16

Sammy Davis, Jr., died in 1990.

23

Bob Marley, reggae legend, dies in 1981.

30

Countee Cullen, poet, was born in 1903.

3

Sugar Ray Robinson, middleweight boxing champion was born in 1920.

10

P.B.S. Pinchback, first Black state governor, born, 1837.

17

Brown vs. Board of Education made "Separate But Equal" in public schools unconstitutional in 1954.

24

Hal McRae was named manager of the Kansas City Royals in 1991.  
Patti LaBelle was born in 1944.

31

NAACP held first conference (as the National Negro Committee), in 1909.

4

Freedom Rides began in 1961.  
Plessy vs. Ferguson upheld "Separate But Equal" doctrine in 1896.

11

Dancer Martha Graham was born in 1854.

Armed Forces Day

18

Reggie Jackson, baseball player, was born in 1946.

25

Madame C. J. Walker, entrepreneur, died in 1919.  
Miles Davis, jazz musician, born in 1926.

# June 2002



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

2

T. Thomas Fortune, journalist, died in 1928.

9

Mata-Vaux Warwick Fuller, sculptor, was born in 1877.

Father's Day

16

Denmark Vesey led slave rebellion in South Carolina, 1822.

23

Track star Wilma Rudolph was born in 1909.

30

Lena Horne, actress, vocalist and activist, born, 1917.

3

Wesley A. Brown became the first Black graduate of Annapolis Naval Academy in 1949.

10

Hattie McDaniel, first Black person to win an Oscar (for Best Supporting Actress in "Gone With The Wind," 1940), was born in 1896.

17

Thomas Ezekiel Miller, congressman, was born in 1849.

24

John R. Lynch became first African-American to preside over deliberations of a national political party in 1884.

4

Anna Bontemps, writer and educator, died in 1973.

11

Hazel Dorothy Scott, classical pianist and singer, was born in 1920.

18

Nannie Burroughs founded National Training School for Women, 1909.

25

Joe Louis defeated Primo Camera at Yankee Stadium in 1935.

5

In 1955, Martin Luther King Jr. was awarded his doctorate from Boston University.

12

Medgar Evers, civil rights activist, was assassinated, 1963.

19

Tennessee University opens as Tennessee A&L State College in 1912.

26

James Weldon Johnson died in 1938.

6

Congress of Racial Equality founded in 1942.

13

Thurgood Marshall appointed to U.S. Supreme Court in 1967.

20

Dr. Lloyd A. Hall, pioneer in food chemistry, was born in Illinois, 1894.

27

Paul Laurence Dunbar, poet and novelist, was born, 1872.

7

Pulitzer Prize winning poet, Gwendolyn Brooks was born in 1917.

Flag Day

14

Harold D. West was named president of Meharry Medical College, 1952.

21

Arthur Ashe, tennis champion, led UCLA to NCAA tennis championship, 1965.

28

Organization for Afro-American Unity founded in 1964.

1

Sojourner Truth began anti-slavery activist career in 1843.

8

Supreme Court banned segregation in Washington, D.C. restaurants in 1953.

15

Errol Garner, singer and musician, was born in 1923.

22

Joe Louis became youngest world heavy-weight boxing champion in 1937.

29

James Van Der Zee, photographer, was born in Lenox, MA, in 1886.

# June 2002



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

2

T. Thomas Fortune, journalist, died in 1928.

9

Mela-Vaux Watrick Fuller, sculptor, was born in 1877.

Father's Day

16

Denmark Vesey led slave rebellion in South Carolina, 1822.

23

Track star Wilma Rudolph was born in 1903.

30

Lena Horne, actress, vocalist and activist, born, 1917.

3

Wesley A. Brown became the first Black graduate of Annapolis Naval Academy in 1949.

10

Hattie McDaniel, first Black person to win an Oscar (for Best Supporting Actress in "Gone With The Wind," 1940), was born in 1898.

17

Thomas Ezekiel Miller, congressman, was born in 1849.

24

John R. Lynch became first African-American to preside over deliberations of a national political party in 1884.

4

Arna Bontemps, writer and educator, died in 1973.

11

Hazel Dorothy Scott, classical pianist and singer, was born in 1920.

18

Nannie Burroughs founded National Training School for Women, 1909.

25

Joe Louis defeated Primo Camera at Yankee Stadium in 1935.

5

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# Johnnie Ruth Jenkins



Whether helping a family in need of food or marching with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the 1960's, Johnnie Ruth Jenkins has been fighting for the needs of others for more than 30 years.

Jenkins says her grandmother instilled in her the call to community service. Jenkins went to work with the Salkehatchie Community Action Agency. She worked with former Barnwell Councilman George Green, the Rev. Aaron Bush, and former state representative Joe Wilder to get the program started. The Salkehatchie Community Action Agency offered family planning, youth programs, summer jobs for teenagers, and emergency food and medical services. As a field agent for the agency, Jenkins went to homes of low-income families to assess the amount of aid needed. The agency closed in 1973, but would later re-emerge in Aiken and establish more offices in surrounding areas including Barnwell. Jenkins also helped to implement Head Start, a preschool program for low-income families in the Barnwell area.

Jenkins spent the next few years doing more volunteer work. She assisted in starting a Head Start program at Voorhees College in Denmark to serve Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Hampton counties. As the sole coordinator of a program that now has nine staff members today, she worked tirelessly to share with others and give something back to the community.

After Community Action reorganized in Aiken, Jenkins became the director of the Barnwell office. "There is hardly a black home in Barnwell that has not been touched in some way by Community Action, and many white homes also," she says. Jenkins spent the rest of her career at Community Action in Barnwell.

In May of 1997, she was forced to leave because of health problems, and she retired that November. But even when she was ill, she did not stop helping others. Shortly after having major surgery, Jenkins ran a Christmas food drive for 132 families, making many of the calls from her bed. In the midst of Jenkins' charity and social work, she refocused her energies on an earlier cause - civil rights. Jenkins had already developed a strong reputation in the community, and she was criticized by some when she entered the civil rights arena. She taught blacks about voters' rights and segregation. Also, she taught classes on the Constitution and other material.

"I never sought publicity for what I did," says Jenkins. Whether she helped a family or fought for the rights of African-Americans, Jenkins is glad that she has made a difference. "Things are better now, and it's incumbent upon all of us to carry our share of the burden," she says.

# July 2002



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Carl Lewis, athlete, born in 1961.	2 Civil Rights Act of 1964 signed. Thurgood Marshall born in 1908.	3 First African-American baseball player in the major leagues, Jackie Robinson, was named to Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.	4 <i>Independence Day</i> Tuskegee Institute established in 1881. Slavery abolished in New York in 1827.	5 Arthur Ashe, won the men's Wimbledon singles championship in 1975.	6 Althea Gibson won Wimbledon in 1957.
7 Margaret Walker, writer, was born in 1915.	8 Venus Williams wins Wimbledon in 2000.	9 Francis L. Cardozo installed as South Carolina's Secretary of State in 1868.	10 Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, was born in 1875.	11 Civil rights activist W.E.B. Dubois, founded the Niagara Movement in 1905.	12 Bill Cosby, entertainer, was born in 1937.	13 Continental Congress excluded slavery from Northwest Territory in 1787.
14 George Washington Carver National Monument dedicated in Joplin MO, in 1951.	15 Pompey Lamb, noted spy, aids the American Revolutionary War effort, 1779.	16 V. A. Johnson, first Black female to argue before the US Supreme Court, born, 1882.	17 Billie Holiday, singer, died in 1959.	18 Lemuel Hayes, first Black Congregationalist minister, born in 1753.	19 Patricia R. Harris named secretary of health, education and welfare in 1979.	20 First U.S. Victory in Korea was won by African-American troops in the 24th Infantry Regiment, in 1950.
21 14th Amendment ratified in 1868. National Association of Colored Women was founded in 1896.	22 Abraham Lincoln read the first draft of Emancipation Proclamation to the cabinet, in 1861.	23 Louis Tompkins Wright, physician, was born in 1924.	24 Mary Church Terrell, educator, died in 1954.	25 Garrett T. Morgan, inventor of the gas mask, rescues six from gas-filled tunnel in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1916.	26 Patrick Francis Healy, first African-American awarded a Ph.D. in 1865. President Truman banned discrimination in the armed services in 1948.	27 Inventor A.P. Abourne was awarded patent for refining coconut oil in 1880.
28 The 14th Amendment was adopted in 1868.	29 The first National Convention of Black Women was held in Boston MA, in 1895.	30 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. activist and politician, was elected congressman from Harlem in 1945.	31 Whitney Young, an Executive Director of the National Urban League, was born in 1921.			

# Cassandra Maxwell



Throughout her life, Cassandra Maxwell sought to improve the lives of the less fortunate and champion causes for equality among all people. Even as a child who experienced a privileged economic and social existence, Maxwell was aware of the social and professional limitations placed on African-Americans by the majority of society. She was one of six children of successful Orangeburg, SC, merchant John Moreau Maxwell. He owned and ran a grocery store popular with all of the city's residents. Cassandra and her brothers and sisters were being prepared for responsible social and professional positions to keep the family's business going and to expand it.

Maxwell was a serious pensive person in all of her endeavors. She attended Claflin University's elementary and high school and Spelman College. At Howard University, she enrolled in and graduated from the School of Law. With the intention of practicing law, Maxwell took the bar exam. She became the first African-American woman to be admitted to the South Carolina Bar.

Undaunted by the dearth of clients for her practice, Maxwell joined the faculty of the Law School at South Carolina State University in 1941 and for ten years molded young legal minds. She taught courses in credit transactions, contracts, pleading and moot court training. Along with her professorship, Maxwell managed and expanded the family's business when it became apparent that her older brother would not succeed their ailing father.

Finding the opportunity to start the legal practice she always wanted, she moved to Atlanta in 1951 with her husband, Dr. James Hope Birnie, a biology professor at Morehouse College and brother-in-law of Dr. Robert Shaw Wilkinson, the second president of SCSU. In Atlanta, Maxwell found a plethora of legal activity ranging from battles for residential rights to domestic issues. She also assisted Thurgood Marshall with his NAACP work in the formative years of the Civil Rights Movement. More than competent as a strategist, her input was invaluable in helping draft case law that would end the segregation of public facilities in the South.

In 1962, the Birnies moved to Philadelphia, PA, where Maxwell joined the Pennsylvania Bar and began another law practice. Her advocacy for social causes was continued through her unwavering service with prominent organizations such as the Fair Housing

and Jobs for Youth, the Children's United Fund, League of Women Voters, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the Urban League, and the Communities Advisory Board of Housing and Urban Development. Also she served as a Philadelphia Fellowship Commissioner, Women's Division.

Active in the Republican Party, Cassandra was appointed by President Nixon as a member of the Interim Board of Directors of the Student Loan Marketing Association. She also won the nomination in the Republican primary as a candidate for a judgeship in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. Although her bid for the seat was unsuccessful, she garnered support that crossed racial and party lines. She died in Philadelphia in 1974.

# August 2002



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

4

"Long" John Woodruff won an Olympic gold medal in the 800-meter run in 1936.

11

Thaddeus Stevens, abolitionist, died in 1868.

18

The first African-American admitted to the University of Mississippi, James Meredith, graduated in 1963.

25

Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters organized in 1925.

5

Edwin Moses and Evelyn Ashford won gold medals in Olympic track & field in 1984.

12

Frederick Douglass' home in Washington D.C. was declared a national shrine, 1922.

19

Benjamin Banneker published his first Almanac in 1791.

26

William Dawson elected Black Democratic Party vice presidential candidate, 1943.

6

Voting Rights Act signed by President Johnson in 1965.

13

Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper was founded in 1892.

20

Richard Allen chaired the first National Negro Convention in Philadelphia in 1830.

27

W.E.B. DuBois died in 1963.

7

Ralph J. Bunche, diplomat and first African-American winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, was born in 1904.

14

Ernest Everett Just, scientist, born in 1883.

21

William "Count" Basie, jazz pianist and musician, was born in 1904.

28

March on Washington in 1963.

1

Whitney Young named executive director of National Urban League in 1961.  
Benjamin E. Mays born in 1895.

8

Matthew A. Henson, explorer and first to reach the North Pole, was born in 1865.

15

Liberia established by freed American slaves, 1824.

22

John Lee Hooker, blues singer and guitarist, was born, 1917.

29

Charlie "Bird" Parker, jazz musician, was born in Kansas City in 1920.

2

James Baldwin, writer, was born in 1924.

9

Jesse Owens won four Olympic gold medals in 1936.

16

Louis Lomax, author, was born in 1922.

23

National Negro Business League founded in 1900.

30

Lt. Col. Guion S. Bluford, Jr. became the first African-American astronaut in space in 1983.

3

The Congress of African Peoples convention was held in Atlanta in 1970.

10

Clarence C. White, composer and violinist, died, 1880.

17

Marcus Garvey born in 1887.

24

Edith Sampson was appointed first African-American delegate to the United Nations by Harry S. Truman, in 1950.

31

Eldridge Cleaver was born in 1935.

# Drink Small



Originally from Bishopville, South Carolina, Columbia resident Drink Small is known as the "Blues Doctor." Growing up in a family of singers and musicians, Small honed his talents while listening to the Grand Ol' Opry, gospel, blues, folk, and big band swing. His musical career began with playing guitar at house parties and at church. He also sang in the glee club and formed a quartet called Six Stars. After high school, Small played guitar with the nationally known Spiritualaires, a gospel group that recorded for the Vee Jay label, and performed at the legendary Apollo Theater.

Small is a gifted songwriter and arranger. In the early 60's, Small performed as an R & B singer and guitarist. He played the college circuit, several world fairs and numerous blues festivals. In the 70's he continued to perform and record his material on his own label, Bishopville Records. He performed and taught at music seminars for students throughout South Carolina. The most distinguishing features of this gifted artist are his bass voice and his impromptu song writing abilities.

Small's reputation as a musician and recording artist has earned him many honors from his peers. In 1986, one of Small's recordings, *The Blues Doctor, Live and Outrageous* was nominated for a W. C. Handy award. Then in 1989, he performed at the prestigious New Orleans Jazz Festival. Later, in 1990 and 1991, he recorded on the major independent R & B label Icheban Records, *The Blues Doctor* and *Round Two*. In 1992 he was featured on the cover of *Living Blues* magazine. 1994 saw the release of *The Electric Blues Doctor Live* on the Mapleshade label. Small, inducted into the South Carolina Music and Entertainment Hall of Fame in 1999, shares honor with such luminaries as James Brown, Dizzy Gillespie, Joanne Woodward, Bill Pinkney, and others.

2000 was a significant year for Small. He appeared at the Three Rivers Music Festival, sharing the stage with other R & B legends such as Nappy Brown, The Tams, The Impressions, and Wilson Pickett. He also participated in the "Blues Tour 2000," at Columbia's Township Auditorium. Headlining this show were such stars as Percy Sledge, Clarence Carter, Betty Wright, and Shirley Brown. Small performed his original tune at the 6th Annual Cammy Awards, hosted by the legendary Jerry Butler. Mayor Bob Coble declared Small's self-penned tribute to the state dance, *I'm Gonna Shag My*

*Blues Away*, as the official city of Columbia shag song. This resulted in an award of the key to the city of Columbia. Small was inducted recently into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame.

# September 2002



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr. named Commander-in-Chief of North American Air Defense Command in 1975. <i>Grandparents Day</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Labor Day</i> Frank Robinson, professional baseball player, named MVP of the American League, 1966.	<b>3</b> Charles Houston, NAACP leader, was born in 1895.	<b>4</b> Louis Latimer, inventor and engineer, was born in 1848.	<b>5</b> George Washington Murray was elected to Congress from South Carolina in 1895.	<b>6</b> <i>Rosh Hashanah begins at Sunset</i> The National Black Convention met in Cleveland in 1848.	<b>7</b> Integration began in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, M.D., public schools in 1954.
<b>8</b> Althea Gibson became the first African-American athlete to win a U.S. national tennis championship in 1957.	<b>9</b> Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915.	<b>10</b> Mordecai Johnson, first Black president of Howard University, died in 1976.	<b>11</b> "Duke" Ellington won Spingarn Medal for his musical achievements in 1959.	<b>12</b> Jackie Robinson, first Black baseball player in the major leagues, was named National League Rookie of the Year, 1947.	<b>13</b> Alain L. Locke, philosopher and first Black Rhodes Scholar, was born in 1886.	<b>14</b> U.S. Cabinet member, Constance Baker Motley was born in 1921.
<b>15</b> <i>Yom Kippur begins at Sunset</i> Dr. Mae Jemison first African-American female astronaut in space in 1992.	<b>16</b> Claude A. Barnett, founder of the Associated Negro Press, was born in 1889.	<b>17</b> United States Constitution signed in 1787.	<b>18</b> Booker T. Washington delivered "Atlanta Compromise" address in 1895.	<b>19</b> Atlanta University was founded in 1865.	<b>20</b> First episode of "The Cosby Show" aired in 1984.	<b>21</b> F.W. Leslie, inventor, patented the envelope seal in 1891.
<b>22</b> Ralph Bunch awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1960.	<b>23</b> <i>First Day of Autumn</i> John Coltrane, innovative and famed jazz musician, was born in 1926.	<b>24</b> Nine African-American students integrated Little Rock high school in 1957.	<b>25</b> Barbara W. Hancock became the first African-American woman named a White House fellow, 1974.	<b>26</b> Bessie Smith, blues singer, died in 1937.	<b>27</b> "Memphis Blues" published in 1912.	<b>28</b> "Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World" published in 1929.
<b>29</b> Hugh Mulzac, first African-American captain of a U.S. merchant ship, launched with the "Booker T. Washington" in 1942.	<b>30</b> Johnny Mathis, singer, was born in 1935.					

# Spann Watson



Spann Watson was born near rural Johnston, South Carolina, on August 14, 1916, the second son of Sherman and Leona Holt Watson. His education began at the age of four at Red Hill, a one-room school. Later, he attended Simpkins School and finally Reeder Branch School, on the grounds of Reeder Branch Church, which still exists in Saluda County.

When Watson was 10 years old, his family moved to Lodi, New Jersey. A frequent visitor to the nearby Teterboro Airport, Watson watched Charles A. Lindbergh fly the *Spirit of St. Louis* on July 4, 1927. This historic event had a lasting impact and inspired Watson to pursue an aviation career. Almost two decades later, Watson served as a fighter pilot instructor at the Combat Crew Training Center for Tuskegee Airmen, located at South Carolina's Walterboro Army Air Field.

Watson attended public school in Lodi and Hackensack. At Howard University, he studied mechanical engineering and began his aviation training in 1939, in the original College Pilot Training Program. He continued under the same program at Tuskegee Institute and joined the U.S. Army Air Corps as a flying cadet. A pioneer of the Tuskegee Airmen Experience, he was an original member of the famed 99th Fighter Squadron. Watson was one of eight pilots who successfully fought the German elite Luftwaffe over the Mediterranean Sea, marking the first time African-American pilots fought in air combat. In World War II, he distinguished himself flying missions over North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and Southern Europe.

Watson's effort and determination were instrumental in the integration of the armed forces and federal agencies. With a segregated military during the 1940's, Watson played a key role in developing an integration plan for the Armed Forces that became the nation's official policy. In 1965, after a 23-year military career, Watson joined the Federal Aviation Administration as an equal opportunity specialist and subsequently as an air traffic specialist. His EEO efforts have resulted in 35 candidates winning appointments to the three major service academies and more than 500 minorities gaining employment as airline flight attendants and pilots.

Lt. Col. Watson's photo hangs with other Airmen in the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. He is the first African-American elected as an *Elder*

*Statesman of Aviation* by the National Aeronautics Association and served as the National President of the Tuskegee Airmen, a group he helped organize. Among his many honors include the *Charles A. "Chief" Anderson Award* from the National Coalition of Black Federal Aviation Employees; the *Brigadier General Noel F. Parrish Award*, the highest honor of the Tuskegee Airmen; the Department of Transportation *Exceptional Service Citation* for his exceptional EEO achievements; the Legion of Merit from the mayor of Washington and the D.C. National Guard Organization; and an Honorary Degree of *Doctor of Public Service* from Rhode Island College. In September 2000, he was awarded the *Henderson Trophy* for Humanity Services. A new Tuskegee Airmen Chapter in Columbia, SC, has been named in his honor.

# October 2002

 **BELLSOUTH**

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South Carolina ETV

**WIS**   
THE SPIRIT OF CAROLINA

 **BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina**  
An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

 **COLONIAL**  
LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY

**SUNDAY**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

**6**

Fisk Jubilee Singers began national tour in 1871.

**13**

Ama W. Bontemps, noted poet, was born in 1902.

**20**

John Merrick organized North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, 1898.

**27**

D. B. Downing, inventor, patented his street letter box in 1891.

**7**

Toni Morrison became first African-American to win Nobel Prize in literature.

*Columbus Day*

**14**

Martin Luther King, Jr. awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

**21**

"Dizzy" Gillespie was born in Cheraw, SC, in 1917.

**28**

Founder of The Underground Railroad, Levi Coffin, was born in 1798.

**1**

Colin Powell was appointed first African-American chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1989.

**8**

Jesse Jackson born in 1941.

**15**

Clarence Thomas confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1992.

**22**

Clarence S. Green became the first African-American certified in neurological surgery.

**29**

The Supreme Court ordered end to segregation in schools "at once" in 1954.

**2**

Thurgood Marshall was sworn in, becoming the first African-American Supreme Court Justice, in 1967.

**9**

O.B. Clare patented the rail trestle in 1888.

**16**

John Brown led attack on Harper's Ferry in 1859.

**23**

The NAACP petitioned the United Nations about racial injustices in 1947.

**30**

Richard Arrington was elected the first Black mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, in 1979.

**3**

Nat King Cole was the first black performer to host his own tv show in 1956.

**10**

Singer Ben Vereen was born in 1946.

**17**

Capital Savings Bank opened in Washington, D.C., in 1888.

**24**

Jackie Robinson died in 1972.

**31**

Ethel Waters, actor and singer, was born in 1900.

**4**

National Black convention met in Syracuse, New York, in 1864.

**11**

A. Miles patented the elevator in 1887.

**18**

Terry McMillan was born in 1951.

**25**

Benjamin O. Davis became the first African-American general in U.S. Army in 1940.

**5**

Congresswoman Yvonne Burke was born in 1932.

**12**

Richard ("Dick") Gregory was born in 1932.

**19**

The U.S. Navy was opened to African-American women in 1944.

**26**

Inventor T. Marshall patented the fire extinguisher in 1872.

# Dr. Clemmie Embly Webber



Dr. Clemmie E. Webber is the recipient of many coveted honors and awards. One such national honor, *National Mother of the Year for 1983*, was awarded to this mother of three and resident of Orangeburg, South Carolina. She was selected over a field of candidates from each of the 50 states. Dr. Webber competed for the national award presented by the American Mothers Committee as an earlier recipient, that same year, of the *South Carolina Mother of the Year*. The American Mothers Committee is a nonpolitical, nonprofit, interfaith, interracial, and multicultural organization that includes a literacy program and children's reading program. Its main purpose is to honor motherhood.

By examples learned from family elders, Webber consistently demonstrated a philosophy of universal love and open communication. She and her husband, Paul Webber (now deceased), maintained and practiced firm beliefs that children are more likely to imitate behaviors they see daily than adopt values preached. Having grown up in an atmosphere of an extended family home, Webber modeled her parenting style after that of her parents and grandparents. Her teacher parents and her grandmother encouraged the children to read and think critically and to engage their elders in meaningful dialogue. Clearly, as an early advocate of women's rights and suffrage and cofounder of the literacy movement in South Carolina, Webber's mother was the source and recipient of many family discussions. In addition, Webber's astute observations of parental impact can be attributed to her maternal grandmother. Her grandmother, a former midwife and practical nurse, provided care during the week and immersed the children in observing nature. During this time, Webber indicates that she and her siblings were challenged to think creatively about conversations, daily observations, and readings.

Webber has been honored to receive another prestigious award from the state of South Carolina, the *Order of the Palmetto*. This is the highest honor a South Carolina Governor can bestow upon a citizen. Other state and local recognition for her unwavering effort and advocacy in education include such citations and awards as *The South Carolina Educators Association Award* for exemplary effort toward the passage of the South Carolina Education Finance Act of 1977, the *SC Legislative Black Caucus Award* in recognition of outstanding civic and educational achievements, election to a three-year

term on the Steering Committee of the National Council of Governmental Ethics Laws, election to the Policy Board of the Center for Science Education at the University of South Carolina, the Sertoma Club of Orangeburg's *Award for Significant and Meritorious Service to Mankind*, South Carolina School Boards *Distinguished Service Award*, membership in the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education; induction to the SC Black Hall of Fame, and appointment by the Governor of South Carolina to a five-year term as a Commissioner on the Education Commission of the States.

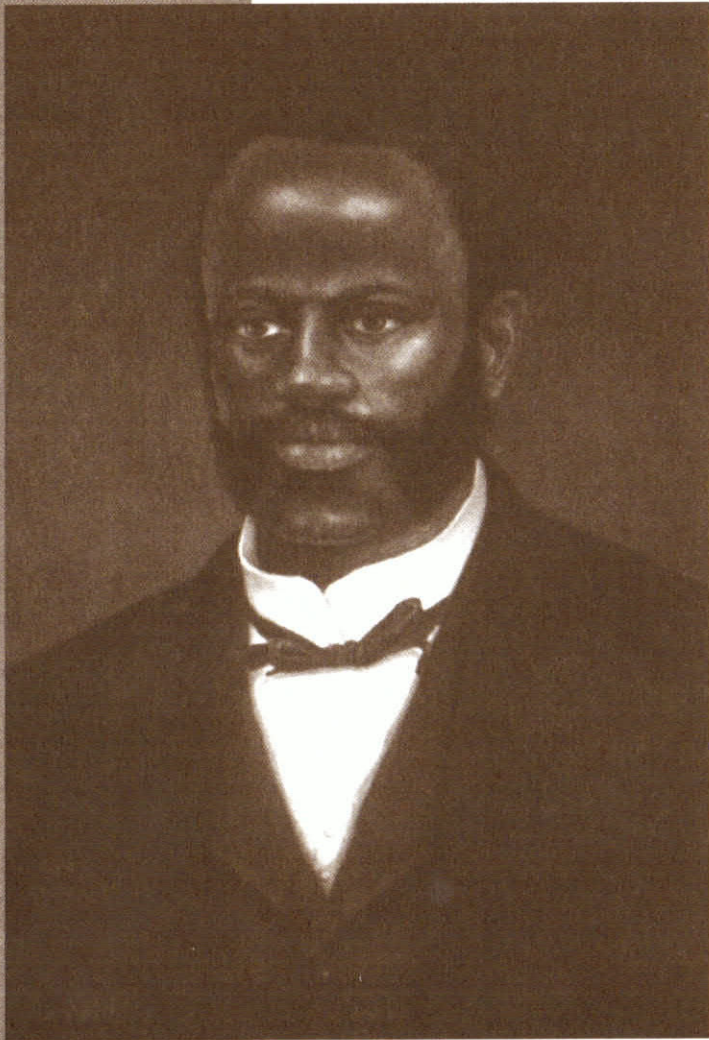
Webber is a retired professor of Science Education at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg. Throughout her career, Webber has been at the forefront of many community issues and served on many civic boards.

# November 2002



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 <i>Election Day</i>	6	7	8	9
South Carolina State College was established in 1896.	T. Elkins patented the refrigerating apparatus in 1879.	Walter E. Washington elected Mayor of Washington, D.C., in 1974.	Absalom Jones, minister, born in 1746.	David Drinkins elected first black Mayor of New York City in 1989.	Edward W. Brooke was elected first Black U.S. senator (R-Mass) in eighty five years, in 1966.	President Ronald Reagan signed law designating the third Monday in January Martin Luther King, Jr., Day in 1983.
10	11 <i>Veterans Day</i>	12	13	14	15	16
Andrew Hatcher was named associate press secretary to President JFK, becoming the first Black press secretary, in 1960.	Nat Turner, leader of a Virginia slave revolt, was hanged in 1831.	In 1775 General Washington issued an order, later rescinded, which forbade recruiting officers to enlist Blacks.	Dwight Gooden won the Cy Young Award in 1985.	Booker T. Washington died in 1915.	In 1979, the Nobel Prize in economics was awarded to Professor Arthur Lewis of Princeton.	Benjamin Banneker, surveyor, born in 1731.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Omega Psi Phi, fraternity, was founded on the campus of Howard University, 1911.	Abolitionist and orator, Sojourner Truth was born in 1787.	Roy Campanella was named most valuable player of the National Baseball League for the second time, 1953.	Garrett T Morgan patented the traffic signal in 1923.	Shaw University was founded in 1865.	Alrutheus A. Taylor, teacher and historian, was born in 1833.	J.L. Love put patents on the pencil sharpener in 1897.
24	25	26	27	28 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	29 <i>Hanukkah Begins at Sunset</i>	30
Scott Joplin, composer, born in 1868.	Luther "Bill" Robinson, dancer, died in 1949.	Sojourner Truth, evangelist, died in 1883.	Richard Wright, author, died in 1960.	Ernie Davis became the first African-American to win the Heisman Trophy in 1961.	Congressman, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., was born in 1908.	Congresswoman, Shirley Chisholm was born in 1924.

# Justice Jonathan Jasper Wright



Jonathan Jasper Wright was born in 1840 and during his career became the first African-American to achieve positions in many aspects of the legal field including the South Carolina Supreme Court. He attended Lancasterian University and, upon completing his study of law, attempted to stand the Pennsylvania bar. Unable to do so, presumably because of his race, Wright accepted a position in Beaufort, South Carolina, teaching newly freed slaves. He also gave lectures on legal and political matters and provided legal advice. These activities drew criticism from some in Beaufort. Wright answered by saying, "Had I been content to settle down and been what the masses of white persons desired of me (a bootblack, a barber, or a hotel waiter), I would have been heard of less."

After the Civil Rights Bill was passed, Wright again petitioned the authorities in Pennsylvania to take the bar. His request was granted. He was admitted to the bar and became the first African-American licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania. Later, he returned to South Carolina as legal advisor to General Howard and was the first African-American to practice law in South Carolina.

In July 1868, Wright was elected as a delegate to South Carolina's constitutional convention. In this position he played a major role in shaping the provisions relating to the judiciary. In the first election in which freedmen could vote, Wright was elected as senator from Beaufort County. Shortly after his election to Congress, an opening occurred on the South Carolina Supreme Court. The position was sought by William Whipper, a House member, and Wright, a Senator. Wright was chosen to fill the position - the first African-American elected to any appeals court in the nation. As associate justice of the Supreme Court, Wright wrote 87 opinions that were recognized for their clear thinking and solid basis in common law.

Charges were made concerning Wright's conduct after Wade Hampton was elected Governor of South Carolina. Although these allegations appear to have been entirely fabricated, Wright saw that he would be forced from the Supreme Court and submitted his resignation. Wright relocated to Charleston, set up a law practice, taught classes from his office, established Claflin College's law department, and served as college trustee.

For many years after Justice Wright's death from tuberculosis, his reputation was

subjected to suspicion, racism, and neglect. Even official portraits of the Justice could no longer be found.

A century after his death the South Carolina Supreme Court did rectify his stature. On two occasions within the past four years, South Carolina Supreme Court justices bestowed belated honor on Justice Wright. In 1997, the justices celebrated Wright's service to the court by unveiling a rare 1870 portrait of him that had been published in *Harper's* magazine. Last year, a granite grave marker was unveiled. During that ceremony, Chief Justice Ernest Finney, Jr., stated, "[Wright's] election to the supreme court marked a high point in a celebrated career of public service, as a teacher, a lawyer, and as a statesman."

# December 2002



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a public bus in 1955.	<b>2</b> Historian Charles Wesley was born in 1891.	<b>3</b> First issue of "North Star" newspaper published in 1847.	<b>4</b> American Anti-Slavery Society organized in 1833.	<b>5</b> Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, founded National Council of Negro Women, 1935.	<b>6</b> In 1971 Lewis Franklin Powell was confirmed as Supreme Court justice.	<b>7</b> Lester Granger was named executive director of the National Urban League in 1941.
<b>8</b> Entertainer, Sammy Davis, Jr., was born in 1925.	<b>9</b> Entertainer, Red Foxx was born in 1925.	<b>10</b> Ralph J. Bunche becomes the first Black person awarded a Nobel Peace Prize, 1950.	<b>11</b> P.B.S. Pinchback became the first African-American governor of an American state, Louisiana, in 1872.	<b>12</b> Joseph H. Rainey (S.C.) first African-American elected to Congress in 1870.	<b>13</b> First Black women complete officer training for the WAVES, 1944.	<b>14</b> Congressman, John Langston was born in 1829.
<b>15</b> Maggie Lena Walker, banker, died in 1934.	<b>16</b> Andrew Young of Georgia named ambassador and chief delegate to the United Nations in 1976.	<b>17</b> Noble Sissie, lyricist and bandleader, died in 1975.	<b>18</b> PUSH founded in 1971. 13th Amendment ratified in 1865.	<b>19</b> Carter G. Woodson, historian, born in 1875.	<b>20</b> South Carolina seceded from the Union in 1860.	<b>21</b> <i>First Day of Winter</i> Motown Records established in 1959 by Berry Gordy, Jr.
<b>22</b> Historian and author of "Destruction of Black Civilization," Dr. Chancellor Williams was born in 1898.	<b>23</b> Alice H. Parker patented the gas heating furnace in 1919.	<b>24</b> Irwin C. Mollison, first African-American judge of the Customs Court was born in 1898.	<b>25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i> In 1971 Rev. Jesse Jackson organized Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity).	<b>26</b> In 1924 DeFord Bailey, Sr., became the first African-American to perform on the Grand Ole Opry.	<b>27</b> Pioneer of blood plasma research, Dr. Charles Richard Drew, established a pioneer blood bank in New York City, 1941.	<b>28</b> Earl "Fatha" Hines, famed jazz musician and father of modern jazz piano, was born in 1905.
<b>29</b> Thomas Bradley was born in 1917.	<b>30</b> Blues composer and singer Bo Diddley was born in 1928.	<b>31</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i> Odetta Felious Gordon, the folk singer and activist known as "Odetta" was born in 1930.				

Following are some books which contain more information about individuals featured in South Carolina African-American History and information about individuals featured in the Calendar series:

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**Caesar, Shirley**, *The Lady, The Melody, and the Word: An Autobiography* (1998).

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**Davis, Michael D. & Clark, Hunter R.**, *Thurgood Marshall - War at the Bar, Rebel at the Bench* (1991).

**Dickerson, Dennis C.**, *Militant Mediator: Whitney Young, Jr.* (1998).

**Dorinson, Joseph and Warmund, Joram.**, editors. *Jackie Robinson: Race Sport and the American Dream* (1998).

**Due, Tananarive**, *The Black Rose - The Life of Madame C. J. Walker, America's First Black Female Millionaire* (1998).

**Earley, Charity Edna Adams**, *One Woman's Army - A Black Officer Remembers the War* (1989).

**Ellison, Ralph**, *Juneteenth* (1999).

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**Estell, Kenneth**, *African American - Portrait of a People* (1994).

**Feelings, Tom**, *Soul Looks Back in Wonder* (1994).

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**Franklin, John Hope and Schweninger, Loren**, *Runaway Slaves: Rebels on the Plantation* (1999).

**Grant, Joanne**, *Ella Baker: Freedom Bound* (1998).

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**Jackson, Sandra D.**, *I'll Take You There - The Story of Black Photographers* (2000).

**Kener, Alan**, *Marian Anderson: A Singer's Journey* (2000).

**Landry, Bert**, *Black Working Women* (1999).

**Marable, Manning**, *Black Leadership in the 20th Century* (1998).

**Marsh, Charles**, *God's Long Summer - The Story of Faith and Civil Rights* (2000).

**Mays, Benjamin E.**, *Born to Rebel* (1987).

**McFadden, Grace Jordan**, *The Oral Recollections of Black South Carolinians Videotape Series*, University of South Carolina: Instructional Center.

**Peterson, Lt. Gen. Frank E.**, *Into the Tiger's Jaw: America's First Black Marine Aviator* (1998).

**Robertson, David**, *Denmark Vesey - The Buried History of America's Slave Rebellion and the Man Who Started It* (1999).

**Robinson, Eddie**, *Never Before, Never Again - The Autobiography of Eddie Robinson* (1999).

**Rogers, Mary Beth**, *Barbara Jordan - An American Hero* (1998).

**Smith, Catherine Parsons**, *William Grant Still* (1999).

**Young, Tommy Scott**, *Tommy Scott Young Spins Magic Tales* (1985)

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